



ARIZONA WILDLAND FIRE EQUIPMENT MOBILIZATION PLAN



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Table of Contents

Section	Title	Page
I.	Introduction	
II.	References	
III.	Definitions and Guiding Policies	
IV.	Plan Maintenance	
V.	Policies	
VI.	Organization	
VII.	Responsibilities	
VIII.	Mobilization and Deployment	
Appendix A: Wildland Resource Group Contact Information		
Appendix B: Resource Extension Request Form		
Appendix C: Resource Request Tracking Form		
Appendix D: Map of Wildland Fire Resource Groups		
Appendix E: Example Protocols Resource Duty Officer		
Appendix F: Dispatch Needs for Resource Assignment		

ARIZONA WILDLAND FIRE EQUIPMENT MOBILIZATION PLAN

I. Introduction

This Arizona Wildland Equipment Mobilization Plan promotes efficient and equitable deployment of engines and water tenders to extended attack wildland fires. The use of this plan will assist the State Forester in assuring all available resources are quickly mobilized to large incidents while still maintaining adequate resource reserves throughout the State for initial attack response to new fires.

The primary authors of this plan were the Fire Management Staff of the Forestry Division and the Operations Subcommittee of the Arizona Fire Chief's Association Wildland Committee. In addition to all fire department organizations, the State Forester also consulted with federal land management agencies, state and county emergency management agencies, and private contractors in the development of this plan. This plan meets the statutory intent of a comprehensive deployment plan in A.R.S 37-622.7

The primary tenets of this plan are:

- Fire Departments will develop and maintain 15 wildland firefighting resource ordering groups in the State. Each group will track resource availability, develop ordering rotation lists, and accept resource orders from the State Forester.
- The State Forester will manage all private contract resources under one group.
- Acceptable resource drawdown levels within the groups will be based upon the fire potential in each area based upon Southwest Coordination Center's Predictive Service Areas Forecast.
- The State Forester may restrict responses to out-of-state wildfires when a high probability exists for resource shortages within Arizona due to high fire activity.

Nothing in this plan is designed to be applied to overhead positions, crews, or dispatches for initial attack.

II. References

State Emergency Response and Recovery Plan (SERRP)
Arizona Revised Statutes Title 37-622 Wildfire Deployment and Suppression
Arizona Master Cooperative Wildland Fire Management and Stafford Act
Response Agreement
Arizona State Wildland Fire Preparedness Plan
Arizona State Forestry Cooperative Intergovernmental Agreement

III. Definitions and Guiding Policies

A. Mobilization and Deployment:

Facilitate the rendering of assistance in areas within and outside of the State, stricken by wildfire. During a wildfire, if the need arises for additional aid, such aid may be rendered in accordance with approved emergency plans.

B. Voluntary Deployment:

Deployment is voluntary. Jurisdictional procedures may quantify the number of resources a department may commit.

C. Arizona Master Cooperative Wildland Fire Management and Stafford Act Response Agreement:

An agreement made and entered into by and between the State of Arizona, ASFD, acting as the agent of all cooperating agencies and the following Federal Agencies: USDA Forest Service, USDI National Park Service, USDI Bureau of Indian Affairs, USDI Bureau of Land Management, and USDI US Fish and Wildlife Service, for the purpose of coordinating the use of State and Federal fire service resources used at incidents.

D. Authority Having Jurisdiction

Federal, State, or Local fire service organizations, including municipal fire departments, fire districts, tribal, fire associations and/or private fire protection organizations providing fire services to the State or any political subdivision of the State to include County and Federal Agencies.

E. Fire Service:

Services provided by a Fire Department that are related to Wildland fire events including fire suppression, prevention, and security. Arizona's fire service resources shall include, but not be limited to, personnel, apparatus, equipment, and/or facilities under the direct control of Local, County, Tribal, State, Federal, or private fire, rescue, or other agency or organization willing to provide those resources under the provisions of an Intergovernmental Agency Agreement and/or a Cooperative Fire Rate Agreement with the Arizona State Forester.

F. Initial Attack:

Initial attack is the action taken by resources that are first to arrive at an incident. All wildland fires that are controlled by suppression forces undergo initial attack. The kind and number of resources responding to initial attack varies depending upon fire danger, fuel type, values to be protected, and other factors. Generally, initial attack involves a small number of resources, and incident size is small.

REGARDLESS OF FIRE TYPE, LOCATION, OR PROPERTY/RESOURCE BEING THREATENED, FIREFIGHTER SAFETY WILL ALWAYS BE THE #1 PRIORITY.

CHARACTERISTICS OF AN INITIAL ATTACK INCIDENT

Resources vary from a single resource (Type 5) to several single resources (Type 4), possibly a single strike team or task force. **Normally limited to one operational period – at least the containment phase.** *This IA period should not exceed 24 hours from the initial size up.* Mop up/control may extend into multiple periods. Normally does not require a written incident action plan. May use the ICS Initial Briefing Form (ICS 201).

The initial attack incident commander (ICT4 and ICT5) may be a single resource boss/company officer and is responsible for performing all command and general staff functions.

G. Extended Attack:

An Extended Attack Incident is the phase of the incident when Initial Attack capabilities have been exceeded. This has a high potential for more serious accidents and injuries. All planned actions must consider firefighter and public safety as the number one priority. When complexity levels exceed Initial Attack capabilities, the appropriate ICS positions should be added to the command staff, commensurate with the complexity of the incident. Complexity is usually Type 3, however, could be typed at any complexity level.

CHARACTERISTICS OF AN EXTENDED ATTACK INCIDENT

An Extended Attack Incident is normally characterized by:

- Usually less than 100 acres in size, however, size is only one determining factor.
- Firefighting resources vary from several single resources to several Task Force/Strike Teams.
- The incident may be divided into divisions, but would not meet the Division/Group Supervisor complexity.
- **The incident is not expected to be contained/controlled in the first operational period.**

Imminent Threat

- **Indication of an approaching immediate threat to life or property.**

IV. Plan Maintenance

The Arizona Wildland Fire Equipment Mobilization Plan will be reviewed and updated by the AFCA Wildland Committee every year. This review will be completed prior to February 15 each year and an updated plan will be issued with appropriate version and date changes. Information related to plan utilization will be collected and submitted to the State Forester's Office by December 1 of each year. Mid-season reviews may be conducted by a select committee to ensure the plan is being administered in a fair and equitable manner. Select Committee to include the Operations and Dispatch Chair or Designee, AZ State FMO or designee and a member of the AFCA Wildland Committee. The Dispatch and Operations Subcommittee will provide RDOs, AFCAs Wildland Committee and Arizona State Forestry a synopsis of the previous seasons activity to ensure transparency.

V. Policies

The following policies form the basis of the Wildland Fire Equipment Mobilization Plan:

- A. The basic tenets of emergency planning are self-help, automatic aid and/or mutual aid and specialty response systems.
- B. The AFCA recognizes the State Emergency Response and Recovery Plan (SERRP) to be guiding policy for response to incidents that have exceeded automatic and mutual aid agreements.
- C. The initial operating period is defined as the first 24 hours. Each fire service agency shall determine its available resources and if any resources can be committed for an extended period of time if requested.
- D. Contributing agencies should anticipate that their resources will be committed for a minimum of the first operational period.
- E. Reimbursement will be in accordance with Cooperative Fire Rate Agreements on file with Arizona State Forestry Division. **All units must be ordered through Arizona State Forester.**

VI. Organization

The wildland fire service of Arizona shall include all public and private entities that provide wildland fire protection services within the State.

Wildland Resource Group (WRG): A group of locally associated Fire Districts, Fire Departments, Tribal and other Fire Associations who share wildland fire resource orders and who are State Cooperators. Each approved group shall be structured to manage the deployment of fire resources effectively and efficiently. Membership in a WRG will be mandatory for dispatching to out of jurisdictional boundary incidents starting January 1, 2013 and continue until this policy is no longer in effect. This group does not affect dispatching to Initial Attack incidents. It will be reviewed annually by the Wildland Committee.

Resource Duty Officer (RDO):

The RDO(s) are identified by the Groups from wildland fire service personnel who are members of active entities within the Wildland Resource Groups. The RDO is responsible for tracking wildland fire resources within the Resource Group and Coordinating with the AZSF District Forester and State Duty Officers. Contact information for all Duty Officers and Group ordering procedures will be provided to Arizona State Dispatch.

AZSF District Duty Officer:

District Duty Officers are responsible for deciding which WRG to go to within an Arizona State Forestry district for resources. The AZSF Duty Officer shall be responsible for tracking assigned and available resources, and declined assignments by WRG, not by each local Agency.

AZSF State Resource Duty Officer:

State Resources Duty Officer is responsible for equitable spread of all orders utilizing the mobilization plan ~~to all three state districts~~. They will determine how many orders are sent to each AZSF districts' appropriate dispatch center. ~~They will ensure 50%/50% rule for instate fires is adhered to and an even distribution for all three districts for out-of-state assignments.~~

VII. Responsibilities

A. Local Agency (Authority having Jurisdiction)

- i. Directs all actions towards managing and stabilizing the wildfire situation.
- ii. Makes maximum use of existing resources prior to requesting assistance from neighboring jurisdictions
- iii. Keeps Arizona State Forestry informed of needs and conditions on the incident.
- iv. Keeps their local WRG informed of available resources that may be used for deployment to a request for deployment from the State.

- v. Notifies the local RDO upon return from a wildland assignment and notifies AZ State Forestry Dispatch of the return from any and all assignments where they were dispatched through the State system.
- vi. Prepares personnel and equipment inventories and forwards copies to RDO annually, Equipment must be on a Cooperative Rate Agreement with Arizona State Forestry Division

B. Resource Duty Officer

- i. Acts as contact point between Arizona State Forestry Dispatch and member agencies within the WRG to fill resource requests.
- ii. Establish and maintain good working relationships with member fire agencies within the WRG.
- iii. Maintain an active equipment and personnel list by agency within the WRG to rapidly identify available resources for assignment. Reports annually the resources within the WRG to AZSF. Pre-Season Report due by April 1 of each year. Report to be sent to State Intelligence Officer and District Forester.
- iv. Establish and maintain an assignment rotation list to ensure equitable distribution of assignments within the WRG. The list should be separated by type of apparatus within the NWCG typing. This list must be made available to each member of the RDO team and kept up to date as each assignment is dispatched by the State Dispatch.
- v. Maintain documentation on which agencies and equipment have accepted assignments and which agencies have declined assignment and reasons given for declination.
- vi. It is the responsibility of the RDO to maintain the rotation list.

C. Arizona State Forestry Duty Officer

- i. Serves as contact point for Arizona State Forestry Dispatch to determine which Wildland Resource Groups will receive resource requests.
- ii. Maintains a good working relationship with RDO's located within their AZSF district.
- iii. Maintains active rotation list to help with equitable distribution of resource requests.

VIII. Procedures – Mobilization and Deployment

Initial Attack response is not covered by this plan and will continue to utilize the closest forces concept driven through the Arizona and Tucson Dispatch Centers utilizing current SOG's.

Extended Attack In-State - Incident will notify the appropriate ASFD dispatch center when they have a need for assistance from ASFD for resources. Requests for assistance from ASFD will be placed through an ASFD dispatch center. For extended attack requests, the dispatch center will notify AZSF State Resource Duty Officer, through ADC, of number of requests to ensure equitable spread of resources throughout state. ~~AZSF State Resource Duty Officer will allocate appropriate number of requests to appropriate ASFD dispatch centers.~~

ADC or TDC will request resources from the 15 WRG's adhering to the closest forces concept based on a date/time needed sensitive delivery model, which will attempt to meet the overall efficient and equitable goals of the Mobilization Plan. If a particular WRG or group of WRGs is nearing drawdown as determined by AZSF RDO, the equitable spread out from the incident to adjoining WRGs will be utilized; taking into consideration date/time needed and travel safety concerns. ASFD dispatch center will then confirm with AZSF District Duty Officer, type and number of requests from WRGs associated with each district, ~~who will then determine which WRG Duty Officer to contact and number of requests to allocate.~~ ASFD dispatch center will provide RDO amounts and types of resources needed, incident information and the Date and Time needed. RDO will then ensure ASFD dispatch receives appendix F from plan.

All requests for resources (engines and water tenders) beyond the first operational period will be considered extended attack and adhere to plan.

~~All resource orders utilizing the plan will be filled on a 50-50 basis. 50% of the orders will be filled within the affected ASFD District geographic area in which the fire is located. The remaining 50% of the orders will be spread between the adjoining ASFD Districts, with consideration given to date/time needed. Any one WRG will provide no more than 25% of the total resource orders per incident during extended attack.~~

Out-of-state requests or instances of multiple extended attack fire requests - orders

~~will be distributed based on levels of committed resources within each ASFD District and determined by AZSF State Resource Duty Officer with consideration to date/time needed.~~ The AZSF State RDO through ADC will choose resources from each of the 15 WRGs, based on the percentage of resources available within each WRG compared to the overall capacity of all combined WRGs in the entire state.

Knowing that all orders do not come in at one time, there may be instances where the AZSF State RDO chooses to utilize a particular group outside of weighted percentages to ensure the equitable nature of the Mobilization Plan is maintained. Example: If the Prescott Basin WRG (YAO) has 8% of the Type 3 engines available in the state with qualified ENGB then the AZSF State RDO through ADC will attempt to get them 8% of the Out of State Responses. AZSF will attempt to meet the overall efficient and equitable goals stated above and will publish daily (April – October) overall status of mobilized resources via the Mobilization Plan.

RDO will advise ASFD Dispatch if the order will be filled or not at the time of the contact or within a maximum of 30 minutes. If ASFD Dispatch has not had contact from the RDO after 30 minutes, the order will be offered to the next available Resource Group. If filled, RDO will inform Dispatch which Department(s) and which unit numbers of equipment will be filling the order. ASFD Dispatch will notify the District Duty Officer of a filled order and which resources filled the order. Units within the WRG that fill orders will be rotated to the bottom of the rotation list for that type of equipment in that WRG. The AZSF District Duty Officer will maintain a list of committed units by type and may assign additional requests to other WRG's within the AZSF District or to another AZSF District based on their information and knowledge.

Unable to Fill Order

RDO will notify ASFD Dispatch if an order cannot be filled within a 30 minute time frame. RDO will maintain record of order and depts. contacted and declined. ASFD Duty officer will be informed by Dispatch of declined orders and will determine where to reassign orders. ASFD will maintain record of declined orders and declining Resource Group.

In order for AZSF to achieve the ultimate goal of efficient and equitable deployment of engines and water tenders, each of the 15 Regional Duty Officers (RDOs) is tasked with keeping the ADC informed of their WRG's reasonable ability to respond resources. The ADC can be updated via email or phone, AIDC@azsf.gov or 623-582-0911 at any time. The RDOs should keep in mind how many resources each agency in their WRG is willing to allow to respond out of state at any one time as well as the agencies' abilities to properly staff those units with appropriate personnel, especially Engine Bosses. If an agency only has one Engine Boss and they are on vacation for 2 weeks – the RDO would inform the ADC or TDC that the WRG would have the ability to respond one less unit for that period of time.

Resource requests will be placed to Wildland Resource Groups based on current or specific resource availability and identified draw down levels. Resource availability levels will be determined by Arizona State Forestry State Office and may be adjusted based on forecasted Significant Fire Potential as assessed and displayed by the Predictive Services section of the Southwest Geographic Coordination Center. This potential is displayed in the "7 Day Outlook", located at http://gacc.nifc.gov/swcc/predictive/outlooks/7day/Fire_Potential.html . Each

Wildland Resource Group is located within one of the Predictive Service Areas referenced in the outlook. Reference the Predictive Service Area for a particular Resource Group in the following Table:

ASFD District	County	Wildland Resource Group	Predictive Service Area
A1S Northern	Coconino	Coconino	SW05
A2S Northeast	Apache	South Apache	SW08
	Navajo	Navajo	SW05
A3S Southeast	Cochise	Cochise	SW06S
	Santa Cruz	SCA Border	SW06S
	Pinal, South	PCWT	SW06S
A4S Central	Gila	Gila County	SW06N
	La Paz/Yuma	River	SW03
	Maricopa	West CAWRT	SW03
		East CAWRT	SW06N
		Hassayampa	SW03
	Pinal, North		SW06N
A5S Northwest	Mohave	Mohave	SW02
	Yavapai	Eastern Yavapai	SW02
		Prescott Basin	SW02

As Significant Fire Potential changes, the number of resources available for assignment out of any Wildland Resource Group may be adjusted, per the following table:

Color	% Available
Red/Orange	20
Brown	40
Yellow	60
Green	80
Out of Season	100

Resource availability level will be determined by the majority of color present for a seven day time period. That time period starts on the current calendar day and extends seven days out into the future.

The presence of red or orange days in the seven day period *may* change the availability of resources.

- 2 red/orange days in seven day period **may** bump up one level.
- 3 red/orange days in seven day period **may** bump up two levels

Arizona State Forestry Division State Office, upon consultation with and request of the Resource Groups, will be the only entity with authority to change availability levels.

Arizona State Forestry Duty Officer reserves the right to name request a particular resource if there is an identified need for training or assignment. When this occurs the RDO managing the rotation in which the requested

resource is listed will be notified and the assignment will be documented in a manner consistent with any other assignment the WRG receives.

Staffing levels for equipment dispatched under this plan will be in accordance with the Standard Staffing levels determined by Arizona State Forestry and documented in the Cooperative Fire Rate Agreements. These levels have been determined to be the NWCG mandated minimum staffing plus one (1) body for engine modules and the NWCG minimum staffing for Water Tenders. To meet identified needs, the State may request staffing levels different than those identified. Staffing above the identified standard level must be documented and approved in the Resource Order for the assignment. The addition of an extra body, especially in the form of an ENGB(T), needs to be communicated to the State Forestry Duty Officers for approval.

It is strongly recommended that all resources dispatched under this plan receive a performance evaluation at the end of their assignment. This evaluation is to be filled out by the resource's incident supervisor and brought home or mailed to Arizona Interagency Dispatch Center. Distribution of copies is to include the chief of the sending department, the State Training Officer, District Forester, and the Administrative Resource Duty Officer of the appropriate Wildland Resource Group.

Mailing Address:
Arizona Interagency Dispatch Center
2901 W. Pinnacle Peak Road
Phoenix, AZ 85027
Attn: State Training Officer

Resource Assignment Rules of Engagement:

1. It is expected that apparatus and personnel staffing that apparatus which are assigned under this agreement will be available for assignment up to 14 days exclusive of travel as outlined in the interagency business management handbook.
2. The Wildland Resource Groups will determine in their operating guidelines what will constitute an assignment for purposes of the rotation within the group.
3. IA resources will not be replaced by the system with equipment from the same department, except by luck of the draw. Equipment staffed with qualified personnel; according to state guidelines already on the incident may be rolled over into extended attack if the resource is needed.
4. A department may add an ENGB to an IA piece of equipment to fill an extended attack order to the same incident if the equipment is requested to stay on the assignment and they are not staffed to the state standard when they responded to the initial IA.

5. No switching of crews to reset clock on equipment before 14 days on in state incidents. Demob and reorder.
6. Extensions or crew swaps for equipment assigned out of state will be considered on a case by case basis. Requests for extension of a piece of equipment must originate from the Incident or Hosting Unit and be documented on an Incident Resource Extension Request form (Plan Appendix B). Supporting documentation or explanation supporting a crew swap with equipment in place may be considered. Extended travel times and other safety considerations may also factor in to the decision. The form needs to be signed by and returned to the Incident or Hosting Unit from the Arizona State Forestry State Office.
7. Per NWCG 310-1, Jurisdictional Agency Qualifications will be honored during Initial Attack. Extended Attack Resources must be NWCG qualified.
8. Wildland engines Type 3 – 7, will be crewed with a fully qualified and red-carded Engine Boss when assigned to Extended Attack or to a known Federal Jurisdiction Initial Attack.
9. As of June 01, 2015, all firefighters working outside their jurisdiction, under the auspices of Arizona State Forestry, when assigned to Initial Attack must be at least FFT2.
10. Support Tenders do not require ENGB qualified personnel and should be crewed by FFT1 or FFT2. Because ENGBs are a critical resource it is preferred that they not be utilized to staff support water tenders so they are available for other apparatus that require an ENGB. The minimum level of qualification on a Support Water Tender will be FFT2 training and a LIGHT qualification on the Work Capacity Test.
11. Tactical Tenders will be crewed by a qualified ENGB and a FFT1 or FFT2.
12. Structure Protection Engines (Type 1 or Type 2) will be staffed with a fully qualified and Red Carded Engine Boss. Associated crews will be carded FFT1 or FFT2. When authorized by State Fire Management, structural engines may be staffed with a Local Agency Qualified company officer. It will be up to each agency to determine the full qualifications of the officer of the apparatus, but they accept all liability for the actions of this officer to perform their duties safely and with proper knowledge for the incident. Minimum standards for the officer of this type engine will include a certificate of NWCG FFT1, Structural Firefighter 1&2 (or agency accepted equal) and successful completion of an S215 - Fire Operations in the Wildland/Urban Interface course. This must be verified by the sending agency and must be listed on the Red Card for this individual. In extreme cases, resources without wildland training may be requested at the direction of state fire management. If this occurs the incident utilizing these resources will need to ensure adequate supervision, training and equipment are provided and their lack of wildland training is taken into consideration when they are assigned in order to mitigate some of the risk. Effective

communication and coordination between the incident and the dispatching agency will be critical to reducing the risk. Due to the varying nature of fires in the interface it is difficult to say exactly what these mitigations would entail. Fuel loading, weather conditions, infrastructure and housing density all play a role in determining if it is appropriate to utilize Structure Protection resources that are not fully qualified under the NWCG standards for wildland firefighting. Consider the following examples:

- a. A large wind driven wildand fire is approaching a heavily developed area with ¼ acre lots, paved roads, and a robust hydrant system. In this circumstance utilizing structure engines without wildland qualified individual to patrol the interior of the subdivision to patrol for spot fires caused by ember fallout may be appropriate.
 - b. A large wind driven fire is approaching an area with numerous wildcat subdivisions and an average lot size of 40 acres. There is no hydrant system, narrow dirt roads, with long narrow driveways. In this circumstance utilizing resources not fully qualified in wildland firefighting would not be appropriate.
13. For out of state assignment, Type 1 and 2 engines will be crewed with a qualified ENGB and NWCG qualified personnel possessing the appropriate red card credentials.
14. State Preparedness Level 4 and 5 may limit fire assignments out of the region and could limit out of state assignments as well.
15. RDOs will confirm their resource availability at the request of District or State Duty Officer.
16. Fire Departments, Fire Districts, Tribal and Fire Associations with wildland equipment returning from assignment, will notify ASFD Dispatch when those apparatus have returned to home units. This is a safety factor and will serve to officially close the assignment. Agencies will then notify the RDO for their WRG of their return and availability for another assignment. It is the responsibility of the returning unit to provide notification or they will not be placed back on the rotation until they have notified the group.
17. ASFD will notify RDO's on a yearly basis, what departments have equipment currently enlisted, and personnel currently certified in the system, what types of equipment and who the personnel are. The purpose of this action is to ensure the lists of personnel and equipment being utilized by the state and the RDOs are consistent with each other.

Management of Contract Resources:

Arizona State Forestry has contractual agreements with several companies within the state that provide fire equipment and services. Those companies that provide fire equipment, i.e. engines, will also be considered under the operating guidelines of this plan. These companies may also provide services and equipment to the federal wildland fire agencies under separate contract.

Due to the limited number of companies providing various pieces of equipment, those contract companies will be managed as a separate Wildland Resource Group. The management of the group and rotation of resources within the group will be managed by State Forestry Fire Management personnel. This group will have several **Rules of Engagement** that will differ from the rules that the Fire Departments and Districts will operate under.

Contractor Rules Of Engagement

1. Contract Resources need to be located within their home county to be dispatched unless currently on assignment and being reassigned.
2. Contract resources need to notify State Forestry Fire Management if an activation under a federal contract will make them unavailable to the state.
3. Contract Resources will be exempt from activation limitations based on State Preparedness levels.
4. Contract governing original dispatch will be governing contract for entire assignment until demobed to home location.